

## ■ SOCIETY

Fairy tales:  
unlocking  
happinessSTUTTGARTER  
NACHRICHTEN

When Joachim fell asleep, he was not alone. He heard a voice that seemed to come from a long way off telling the tale of the girl gooseherd at the stream:

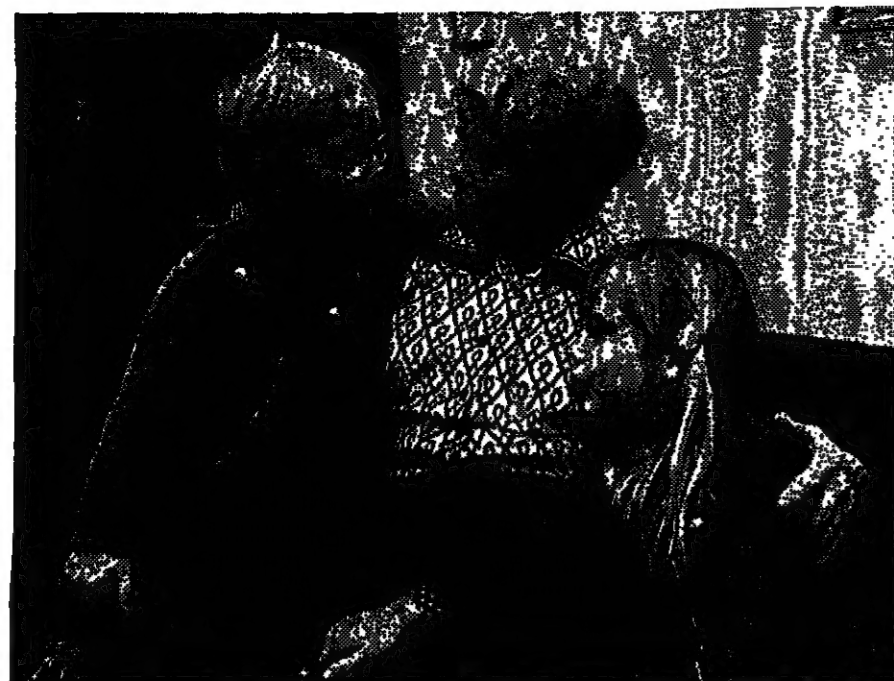
"The air was mild and warm and round about was a green meadow, full of primroses, wild thyme and thousands of other flowers."

"It's very nice here," said Joachim. "I'm so tired, I'd just like to..."

A nurse pushed him quietly into the operating theatre. And without regaining consciousness the child died.

That was 40 years ago, and even now Charlotte Rougemont thinks of little Joachim whenever she tells the tale of the gooseherd.

"There are memories and associations with every fairy tale I tell — serious and funny, sad and merry. Many of them, such as the tale of the gooseherd, are indelibly associated with someone who died a long time ago. Perhaps this comes across when I tell fairy tales, I don't know."



Charlotte Rougemont: the stories have memories.

(Photo: dpa)

Charlotte Rougemont has a rare and enviable job: she is a fairy-tale teller. That is her profession, according to the Hamburg telephone directory.

And how does one become a fairy-tale teller? A difficult question which can only be answered vaguely. A deep love of fairy tales plays a part, and a love of the people, big and small, to whom she tells the tales. And perhaps more than anything else, a vocation.

Charlotte Rougemont, who is almost 79, worked for many years as a medical-technical assistant in a Hamburg hospital before she discovered her gift for telling fairy-tales.

She always had a volume of Grimm's

fairy tales to hand as she cleaned test-tubes and stands.

The doctors and nurses did not mind, indeed they approved of this unscientific aspect of Charlotte's work.

Soon they were saying: "In that room a blood test, in that a stomach juice test, and in the other a fairy tale, otherwise we simply will not get on."

Charlotte knows and can tell over 120 fairy tales by heart. She says that fairy tales are vitamins for the soul.

She prefers folk fairy tales, especially those of the Brothers Grimm, who in her opinion had the gift of writing the way the tales were told.

There are few parents or grandparents today who have the time to tell their children fairy tales, to dream with them of the mysterious world of princes and princesses, witches and ghosts, dwarves, gnomes and giants.

She says: "If only more people today realised how happy you can make children by reading them or telling them a fairy tale." And this happiness is not short-lived.

Improbable though it may seem, Charlotte Rougemont had to tell the tax man a fairy tale at the beginning of her career.

This was in the early fifties. She received a letter summoning her to the tax office. It was a matter of whether or not she should pay turnover tax.

She was given a list and asked to choose from the free professions listed. "Artist, perhaps?"

The senior tax man was sceptical. "Anyone can say he is an artist, but proving it is a different matter."

Charlotte Rougemont went quickly over all her fairy tales in her mind and within seconds she was telling the tale of the magic box that kept filling up with money as soon as you took money out.

A tale made for a tax man. The tax official laughed heartily and from then on there was no more talk of turnover tax.

In her 40 years fairy telling career, Frau Rougemont has told her stories in field hospitals and hospitals, in schools, kindergartens, borstals and women's prisons, to women's circles and to children at birthday parties.

She has travelled throughout the country, to towns and villages, and has recorded everything in her diaries, whether a story-telling session was a success or not.

Maren Warrner/dpa

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 16 January 1980)

Women in the  
police 'as  
good as men'

Women policemen are every bit as good as men — and some even better — an international conference has been told.

And this applied to women in demanding spheres such as dealing with terrorists and coping with major demonstrations.

The congress, in Münster, was organised by the German section of the international police officers' organisation (IOLP).

Delegates came from Britain, the Netherlands, Austria, the Netherlands and Germany.

IOLP vice-presidents Günter Le and Robert Altmann said that police in the United States, Britain, the Netherlands had shown "women accomplish their tasks to complete satisfaction in major demonstrations."

In the Dutch towns of Nijmegen and The Hague, women have for four years been members of special terrorist and anti-hijacker squads (in the German GSG-9 units which rescued the passengers held hostage by the Lufthansa jet in Mogadishu).

What is more, some women hold positions in these squads.

The only factors that decide whether or not men or women are deployed for selection, training and physical fitness.

The only criterion for whether or not women get senior executive positions is their personal qualification. Psychologically, women are not different from men, even superior.

Policemen tended to get involved in verbal battles leading to an escalation of violence, whereas policewomen were more capable of preventing violence from developing.

On the beat or dealing with the public in the police stations, women

tended to be better at communicating with people.

Women also tended to be more committed to the police service, men regarded it as "just a job."

In the Rhineland Palatinate last year, for example, 2,200 women applied for 20 jobs. And at the National CI training centre there were 70 female applicants for every 30 males.

Given the same selection, training equipment and weaponry and perhaps slightly different physical training more judo and karate, less boxing wrestling — women can take on same tasks as men.

There are, according to lecturers, leadership techniques at the congress, taboos about deploying women.

Policemen abroad, who were at first sceptical about their female colleagues, have found that women improve working climate.

Hamburg is the only town in the Federal Republic of Germany which had women in its police force in 1945.

They are used in youth work, dealing with female suspects and also on the beat. At the moment there are 50 women in the police force, 50 per cent in training. There are also 700 clothes policewomen in Hamburg.

Jürgen Meißner

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 22 January 1980)

## The German Tribune

Hamburg, 17 February 1980

Nineteenth Year - No. 928 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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shows the strain

A shadow hangs over the relations between America and the Federal Republic of Germany. Of that there is no doubt, despite all the assurances of solidarity being given in Bonn.

Exactly how far the deterioration process has gone is impossible to say.

And it will remain impossible as long as the rather short coat of Western solidarity is used to conceal the various naked spots in the alliance.

Carter is not satisfied with Schmidt, and Schmidt is not happy with Carter. And it will not be possible to smooth over this dissension for much longer.

Either they will have to come to some arrangement soon or there will be an open break — which could be disastrous.

Much though Bonn is concerned with saving detente, there are also other risks which must be seen. America's willingness to step in and defend Europe must not be undermined.

If American government displeasure at the way Bonn is responding to its calls for solidarity were to be combined with the anti-European resentment of the American public, a dangerous development, could result.

Apel confident  
about  
defence forces

Bonn Defence Minister Hans Apel believes that this country's defence is assured, even if strategic factors should lead to a reduction of American troop numbers in this country.

This was the tenor of his argument at the Munich Defence Conference. In his view the Bundeswehr is ready for all eventualities. But is it really?

Of course no one seriously wants the Bundeswehr to take on tasks outside Nato. Opposition defence spokesman Wörner stressed that the CDU/CSU did not advocate this.

But there is no doubt that in view of the present world political crisis we need to step up our defence efforts.

No one can expect the Americans to increase defence expenditure by 5 per cent a year while we, in our vulnerable position in central Europe, do not make adequate increases in our own defence spending.

The present tensions between East and West certainly do not mean that we should now abandon detente. But it underlines that there are many imponderables and we must be armed for eventualities.

Finally, how is the Defence Minister going to argue for more defence expenditure if he reckons that we are now adequately provided for? Mark Johann

(Nordwest Zeitung, 11 February 1980)



## Visitor from Iraq

Iraq's Foreign Minister, Sadoun Hammadi, visited Bonn this month for talks over the current crisis. He is with Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. (Photo: dpa)

the Afghanistan crisis is going to last longer. We cannot let up in our demands for a withdrawal of the Soviet invasion troops.

The West must do this with persistence and perseverance and one means towards it is sanctions. It would be difficult to avoid a West German boycott of the Olympic Games if Washington continues to insist on an American boycott.

Inevitably there will also be a new phase of rearmament, in Europe as well as in the United States. Henry Kissinger was right when he said in Davos recently: "The West has neglected its military strength far too long. There is no other solution than to increase the total military capacity of the United States and its allies."

For the sake of its own future the West cannot continue its defensive stance of the 70s towards Moscow.

It is good that Bonn, in full appreciation of this country's interests, continues to try to rescue what can be rescued of detente. But the wordiness with which it is doing so contains dangers.

One the one hand, it makes the Americans insecure, on the other it is deluding the German people about how long and difficult the task is.

Kissinger was also right when he said: "We will have to make still greater sacrifices." Psychological sacrifices because times are getting tougher. And material sacrifices, because security and affluence are going to cost us more in future.

Jürgen Offenbach  
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 February 1980)

Russia has  
reason to  
be satisfied

President Carter announced what he intended doing in retaliation but did not first consult his allies. And the European allies have, so far proved unable to agree on what is to be done.

The youngest and so far most serious

blow to Western unity is France's surprising decision not to take part in the Western conference of foreign ministers which was due to take place in Bonn.

Three days after the France-German declaration in Paris which the Bonn government celebrated as a document of unity, that unity was again shattered.

For reasons of home policy, and also because he is not convinced of Carter's leadership qualities, President Giscard d'Estaing opposes too tough a united Western response to the Soviet challenge.

On the one hand he does not want to provoke the Kremlin. Possibly he also believes he can act as an intermediary between East and West, perhaps on the basis of a gradual withdrawal of the Red Army from Afghanistan, which there is speculation about in various quarters.

There is certainly some sympathy in Bonn circles for this French strategy.

That is precisely the danger, especially for us. For West Germany, more than any other Western country, is dependent on American protection, particularly for Berlin.

Werner Neumann  
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 9 February 1980)

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## MEDICINE

# Helping lepers with a fund drive - and a change of name

Leprosy Day was held on 27 January to commemorate the victims of the disease and begin a fund drive.

Most people in the Western world know little about leprosy except that they vaguely associate it with some sort of mysterious scourge.

Yet more than 10 million people have to live with the disease, which is prevalent in underdeveloped and heavily populated tropical countries. And to make matters worse, it usually goes hand in hand with pitiful social conditions.

Asia (India, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia) is estimated to have 6.5 million, Africa 3.5 million and Latin America 350,000 lepers.

Though no figures are available for China, that country is estimated to have about one million sufferers.

To remove some of the dread associated with the word, leprosy is now frequently called Hansen's Disease after the Norwegian researcher who discovered the bacillus that causes it in 1873.

## No mention in the Bible

Wrong interpretations of the Bible have greatly contributed to mistaken ideas about leprosy which, in fact, is never mentioned in the Bible.

In central Europe, the disease has been wiped out since the beginning of the Modern Age.

But though no longer a scourge in Germany, research into the disease continues in this country.

Like with any other infectious disease, heavily afflicted persons act as carriers. So do certain blood-sucking insects.

Once the bacillus has entered the body it remains fairly dormant, multiplying slowly in the skin and the nervous system. It takes about 12 days to double, and eventually uncharacteristic blotches appear.

Inadequate pre-natal care and inadequate use of available facilities are a cause of the high infant mortality rate in West Germany.

This is one finding of a study commissioned by the Bremen Health Authority, in whose area 21 of every 1,000 babies died in the first year in 1978.

The authority hopes to reduce this figure to between three and four per 1,000.

Its study was based on another research project the Hanover Medical School carried out for the Bonn Labour Ministry in 1978.

Bremen's study says that the birth process itself is so well organised that it can hardly account for the mortality rate.

Conditions in maternity clinics, where 99 per cent of births take place, are excellent.

But risks grow in direct proportion to the regularity with which mothers-to-be attend prenatal checkups.

Over a period of 12 months, scientists kept records of all births in Bremen and tracked down the causes of most cases of infant mortality. The survey included 93.9 per cent of the births and 93.6 per cent of deaths.



In most cases the body manages to overcome the infection and only few people develop the typical blotches or nodules - mostly in the face, the ears or the torso.

The diagnosis is easy since the afflicted portions become insensitive because the nerves are attacked at an early stage.

The further course of leprosy is determined by the patient's immunity mechanism. People with strong defences form so called defence granules. These cases are referred to by medicine as tuberculous leprosy. This type may remain quiescent or improve, with spontaneous disappearance of the lesions and complete recovery.

Lepromatous or cutaneous leprosy is marked by wide-spread infiltration by grainy masses of chronically inflamed tissue under the skin, the mucosal membranes of the upper respiratory tract, the face and testes. Untreated, its prognosis is poor.

But between these two extreme forms of the disease there are a number of intermediate forms which are frequently difficult to diagnose.

Unless the patient is treated correctly, the disease progresses to the so-called "burnt out" stage, as described by Graham Greene in one of his novels.

Fortunately, chemotherapeutic treatment as practised since 1942 has proved very effective. Great improvements have also been achieved with thalidomide.

Modern treatment had to be tested on the patients themselves due to the impossibility of cultivating the bacillus.

It was not until 1960 that researchers succeeded in cultivating the bacillus in the relatively cool paws of mice. In 1971, they managed to inject the bacillus in armadillos and cause general infection.

But it is impossible to restrict such important experiments to one animal only. Moreover, the armadillo cannot be raised in captivity and is rarely free of other diseases.

It was therefore an important breakthrough when scientists managed to transmit the disease to hedgehogs as well. Though hedgehogs are not found in countries with endemic leprosy, they have the necessary low body temperature (like the armadillo) needed for an infection to take hold.

Research into leprosy has been conducted for years in Bonn.

Among other things, the scientists want to clarify why the drugs administered to patients are so slow to affect the bacillus and why relapses once treatment has been discontinued are so prevalent. The Bonn researchers are also working on ways and means of immunisation.

The author, Professor Georg Kilgusmüller, teaches dermatology, with special emphasis on leprosy, at Bonn University.

The few lepers living in Germany require treatment over a long period. Furthermore, the doctors also have to deal with the social problems that go with the disease. This applies not only to Germany but to other European countries as well.

Holland, for instance, has 1,000 lepers (mostly from the former colonies) undergoing outpatient treatment. All of them have meanwhile been reintegrated into society.

German leprosy research can make a considerable contribution towards controlling the disease in countries where it is still a very serious problem.

The financial assistance by German donors, welcomed throughout the world, would be more effective if the research facilities available in this country were used more extensively.

Georg Kilgusmüller  
(Die Welt, 26 January 1980)

# Baby death rate blamed on lack of pre-natal care

The outcome of the study led to the following basic demand aimed at reducing the risk: pregnant women must be encouraged much more to attend prenatal checkups.

Starting from this summer, Bremen's health senator intends to introduce the following measure to comply with the demand: 20 to 30 midwives will counsel pregnant women and persuade them to make better use of prenatal care facilities.

This is to be a three-year pilot project, eventually to be introduced nation-wide. The project, financed by the Bonn Labour Ministry, will cost DM7 million.

The midwives hired by the Bremen Senate have meanwhile completed a special training course. In cooperation with local doctors, pediatric clinics and counselling centres, they will make every effort to recognise abnormalities in the pregnancies.

This type of counselling is particularly important in poorer areas.

But social integration also plays an important role: while 28.3 per cent of German pregnant women see a doctor regularly until the eighth week of pregnancy, only 18 per cent of foreign women do.

Another significant difference is that between married and single pregnant women.

There is a good reason for having chosen midwives for the job: the mother-to-be is to have an individual counsellor working in close cooperation with the hospital rather than a confusing number of different professional people.

The target of the Bremen Health Authority is to reduce still births and infant mortality up to the age of one to between three and four per 1,000.

Lorenz Thalmann  
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 26 January 1980)

# A legal grey zone 'costs lives'

Forensic medicine in the Federal Republic of Germany lags behind international development.

This was the main point raised at Academy of German Judges in a congress in Trier.

Doctors, judges and public prosecutors from all parts of the nation, attended.

A legal grey zone, the congress told, prevented organ transplants necessary to stop suffering and lives.

For fear of being caught in a "vacuum", many surgeons hesitate to make use of the medical and technical possibilities open in the transplants of organs.

Compared with the international standard of surgery and transplant techniques, the congress was told, forensic medicine has barely progressed beyond the last century.

The lack of clear transplantation legislation has proved an insurmountable obstacle for most surgeons.

This is because the next of kin, with a dead relative, must be asked to consent to the removal of an organ. Professor Harald Lange, of the Philip University Clinic in Marburg.

Unless the deceased has during his lifetime put it on record that he is willing to donate an organ, the relatives must refuse the request.

As a result, Germany lags far behind other nations - especially in the important field of kidney transplants.

The developments are more favourable for smaller transplants.

Thus, for instance, 1,500 blind Germans have had their sight restored through cornea transplants.

But of the 14,000 fatal road accidents in 1976, only 158 were registered as kidney donors. The annual need for kidney transplants in this country, however, is 2,000.

At present, only 20 per cent of the necessary transplants can actually be made.

According to the doctors at the congress, Germany ranks in place 16 among European countries in the field of kidney transplants.

Despite the progress that has been made, German surgeons are dissatisfied with the results of such transplants: 25 per cent of the cases the implanted organ must be removed again due to irreversible rejection, and the patient must be attached to an artificial kidney.

This apparatus, however, replaces 7 per cent of the normal excretory kidney function. Though it helps to prolong the life of the patient under the able circumstances, most of them come severely invalidated.

Successful kidney transplants, on the other hand, improve the circulation alleviating the anaemia that frequently goes with kidney diseases.

More transplants would already prove the success rate, the congress told.

The lack of relevant legislation is responsible for the fact that the waiting time for a donated organ is 22 months.

Jacques Loh  
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 2 February 1980)

## EDUCATION

# Chinese studies more popular as image of sinology changes

Studies of Chinese language and culture are booming. Between 60 and 80 first-year university students every year take Chinese courses.

Ten years ago the figure was between 16 and 20 9 year.

The trend is comparatively recent. When Chinese Prime Minister Hua Guofeng visited West Germany it became clear that we were still short of interpreters for Chinese.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had to turn to Chinese students and university lecturers in this country to accompany and interpret for Hua and the large group of Chinese journalists.

Only 15 years ago, Sinology as it is called here was regarded as a subject for unworried academics. A typical image was that of the professor sipping tea and initiating his pupils into the world of Tang poetry.

And this image, though exaggerated, was not so short of the mark.

Sinologists in the early sixties wanted to learn the decorative Chinese characters and thus the language; they had a love of Chinese art - ancient Chinese art of course - and admired Chinese philosophy.

## No more mocking of 'tea drinkers'

Normal students mocked the sinologists as "tea drinkers." At that time there were only two professorships of Chinese at German universities, in Munich and in Hamburg. Both professors were called Franke.

In view of China's increasing importance in world politics, Wolfgang and Herbert Franke urged the Science Council to recommend more teaching posts for sinologists at German universities.

Sinology up to the beginning of the Second World War had always dealt with contemporary history - even though it was for a time a "colonial" science.

But it became caught in a cul de sac after the war and the Chinese revolution.

The isolation of Maoist China from the rest of the world made the study of contemporary China almost impossible, so it was hardly surprising that the study of classical Chinese literature predominated.

Fourteen new teaching and research posts were established at German universities by the mid-sixties.

The professional prospects for sinologists thus increased spectacularly and almost an entire generation of sinology students got posts at universities.

The student revolution and increased interest in the China of the cultural revolution then led to a change in the kind of students taking up sinology. The tea drinkers were joined by the apostles of Mao.

German cultural revolutionaries were particularly dominant in Berlin and in Munich. In Hamburg and Tübingen, political motives for studying sinology were not so marked.

Kuan Yu-chien, a reader in Chinese at Hamburg University, says: "The Maoists, who were only interested in learning Chinese because of their politics, did not stay long. After two terms, half of them had dropped out."

Sinologists often have a general interest in non-European cultures and this is an important factor in their choice of subject.

Hans Willem Schütte, now studying Chinese in Hamburg, is a case in point. He originally wanted to take African studies, but started Chinese at a pre-university course at the Leibniz Kolleg in Tübingen.

He then continued with Chinese, partly because he did not want to waste the time and effort he had already put into it.

Schütte is interested in a comparison between the West, where technology is advancing so rapidly that we cannot keep up with it, and China, which has not yet reached a comparable technological level.

"I have learnt a lot about myself and about our view of ourselves in my studies of Chinese. We begin to see ourselves more objectively when we have studied another, very different culture," he says.

Like Schütte, Philip Kunig criticises the Eurocentrism of our university system. He says it is self evident that a German student should study Roman law but not that he should study Chinese law.

Kunig has just finished his law studies and has a junior lectureship. As a grammar school pupil, he was very interested in China, particularly in Mao Tse Tung and the cultural revolution. But he was not a Mao apostle.

He started a course in sinology. That means he had to learn modern idiomatic Chinese as well as classical Chinese, the dead language of philosophers and writers.

# West Berlin to increase priority of Turkish

## DER TAGESSPIEGEL

West Berlin is to give its primary school children the chance to learn Turkish as a first foreign language.

The city has a large Turkish community.

Turkish parents' organisations and the Teachers' Union (GEW) have long advocated the introduction of Turkish as a first foreign language. The Berlin Education Department was sceptical at first, but has now changed its mind.

There will probably be a large majority in the Berlin City Parliament in favour of the move.

The CDU tabled a resolution to introduce Turkish at primary schools in autumn 1979. The resolution said that the purpose of the experiment was to maintain ties with the mother language and to put these pupils in a position to get better school-leaving qualifications and thus better vocational training.

Pupils - or their parents - choose their first foreign language in the fifth class at the age of 11.

The options are English, French and Latin.

The conference even went further than the present Berlin scheme. It will recognise the mother tongue "even if no teaching in it is possible; a pupil's ability will be tested in an examination."

(Der Tagespiegel, 29 January 1980)

learn this, perhaps the most difficult language in the world, in a few hours a week?

Philip Kunig says that it is a start and helps the learner to decide whether or not he wants to pursue his studies of the language more deeply.

Pupils learn to decipher a few of the mysterious characters. This little insight into the language also gives them better access to Chinese thinking.

What are the professional options open to a graduate sinologist? Kuan Yu-chien is optimistic. He says that there will be increasing demand for sinologists in the Federal Republic of Germany in the coming years.

But not for those who have only studied Chinese and nothing else - their only chance is to get a job teaching sinology at universities.

Professor Tilemann Grimm sees opportunities for those who have studied sinology and another subject. He says professional opportunities depend more on a student's qualifications in law, economics or political science, and if they can then combine this with a knowledge of Chinese he believes their professional future is assured.

He stresses, however, that they ought to be able to speak Chinese - and this means spending at least a year in the Chinese-speaking world, in China or Taiwan.

## DIE ZEITUNG

Many beginners aim ultimately to become journalists or diplomats. There is a shortage of students combining Chinese with an applied science, though these are the people with the best prospects.

They are in great demand in the construction of technical plant in China, for instance the German-built steel works in Wuhan. The trade boom with China is only beginning.

Since 1971, the Volkswagen Foundation has been holding special intensive courses for people from all kinds of professions who need Chinese.

The courses last four weeks. Teaching lasts all day and there are never more than 20 in any class. Here, various methods of teaching the language were tried.

I took part in one of these courses. I began with an American textbook, then we used a Peking textbook and much later we read texts and newspaper articles chosen by the lecturer. We got through a whole university term's work.

The students came from all walks of life: one was a numismatist specialising in Chinese coins, an art historian, a lawyer who had to negotiate contracts for his firm in China, a businessman who wanted to learn a little for a visit to the Canton Fair, and an ethnologist specialising in Chinese minorities.

Seventy per cent of the group that started Chinese in 1973 have kept it up. They have since worked in or on China as journalists or scholars; others have gone to China to study for a year or two.

Tilemann Grimm says that "we have Mao Tse Tung to thank that sinology has come out of its ivory tower."

It was Mao who made China a world power. And that is why sinology courses are now dominated by hard-headed pragmatists and not the dreaming scholars of the past.

Gisela Mahmann  
(Die Zeit, 1 February 1980)



## MENTAL HEALTH

### 'Victim of injustice' faces uncertain future

A few years ago, Günter Wallraff wrote a book on the difficulties of getting out of a mental hospital, the destructiveness of life in it and the total loss of contact with reality.

Otto Breuer, 56, is a case in point. Close to 20 years ago, a judge ordered him committed to a mental hospital on the grounds of his being a "feeble-minded, work-shirking psychopath."

Herr Breuer was institutionalised for 16 years and he would still be there if he had not broken the law.

The people around him laugh at some of the episodes recounted by Breuer. He tells how he broke out so many times in one particular year as to make him an absolute national champion and how one day he was "barred" from the closed section of the insane asylum. He also tells how it came that a prison warden apologised to him.

But most of his reminiscences are no laughing matter.

Having been branded insane and finding himself caught up in the mills of psychiatry, he tells how he was driven to the verge of physical and mental destruction during the 16 years he spent behind the walls of various asylums and why, even now that he is out again,

#### Frankfurter Handschuh

he still has to live as a social outcast in a rehabilitation centre for vagrants called Roter Hamm.

The years of captivity have even more restricted Breuer's chances to make something of his life.

Physically handicapped, he now works in a cleaning gang keeping the courtyard and the adjoining sidewalk of Roter Hamm clean.

And since outcasts like Breuer are rarely given a genuine chance, his future can only be termed bleak: the men get an hourly wage of DM2.50 — too little to save and too little to build up a livelihood for themselves.

But then, Otto Breuer never fitted into our social pigeon holes. At school he was one of those children who are constantly made to stand in a corner.

Having spent eight years at school (rarely being promoted from one grade to another), he never quite grasped the three Rs. Caning by teachers and his father was the order of the day.

At 14 he was made to work on a farm.

"Actually, I wanted to become a bricklayer, but no-one wanted me," he says.

So he toiled for a few marks a day until being drafted into the army. His life has always been dominated by others.

Breuer still vividly remembers the immediate post-war years. ("That was the one time I was really free.")

Like so many of the wartime homeless, he wandered through the ravaged country begging or doing odd jobs from time to time.

He was arrested time and again — sometimes for begging and loitering, sometimes because he had no papers and, of course, for occasional petty theft. He does not quite remember how many

times he was sent to prison but estimates it at about 21 to 23.

And since he was one of those who missed the boat of our affluent society, he did his first "big job" at 38. It was also his last: in 1961 he broke into a Frankfurt kiosk, stealing coffee, tobacco and cigarettes, and was caught.

A court sentenced him to nine months — which were to turn into 16 years because the judge ordered him committed to a mental home when he came out of prison.

Thumbing Otto Breuer's file, Walter Haider, head of the rehabilitation centre where he now lives, lists the stations of his life in pitiless officialese, coming to the conclusion that in all those years Herr Breuer spent in various mental homes no-one took the trouble to give him a thorough mental checkup and come up with a sound diagnosis.

Herr Haider: "I cannot rid myself of the suspicion that the people in the insane asylums are deliberately kept there as cheap labour."

In the first mental home he was sent to, the doctor asked Herr Breuer "What's brought you here?" But this was pretty much the last time anybody asked him anything.

He went from asylum to asylum, scrubbing floors, feeding the sick, changing the incontinent, emptying bedpans and cleaning toilets and the excrement around them. His wage: half a pack tobacco a week.

In such conditions the will to resist soon fades. Herr Breuer's many discharge applications were rejected — probably because the successive doctors copied the diagnosis of their predecessors.

The "feeble-minded and very aggres-

sive psychopath" remained inside, witnessing the mistreatment of his fellow patients, seeing doctors treating their patients with total lack of interest and listening to the screams of the dying. He shared his cell with sex deviates and drug addicts — usually 30 to a cell.

He heard doctors say: "Now, Breuer, you're the only sensible fellow in this ward, so tell me, what was the matter last night?"

In one of the homes he was permitted to work outside but had to return at night.

Herr Breuer says: "No-one was prepared to explain the absurdity of my being let loose during the day and locked up at night. All they said was 'Otto, don't ask so many questions!'"

He stopped asking questions and ran away.

But his freedom was always short lived. The long arm of the law caught up with him time and again and he found himself back inside.

Plans to reform the psychiatric care system are in jeopardy. And many of those who once cried out for reform now seem to have changed their minds.

What other explanation is there for the opposition in the Länder to the recommendations of a special commission on psychiatry?

Because of serious shortcomings in the care of psychiatric cases, Bonn Finance Minister Matthöfer set aside DM400 million for a five-year plan.

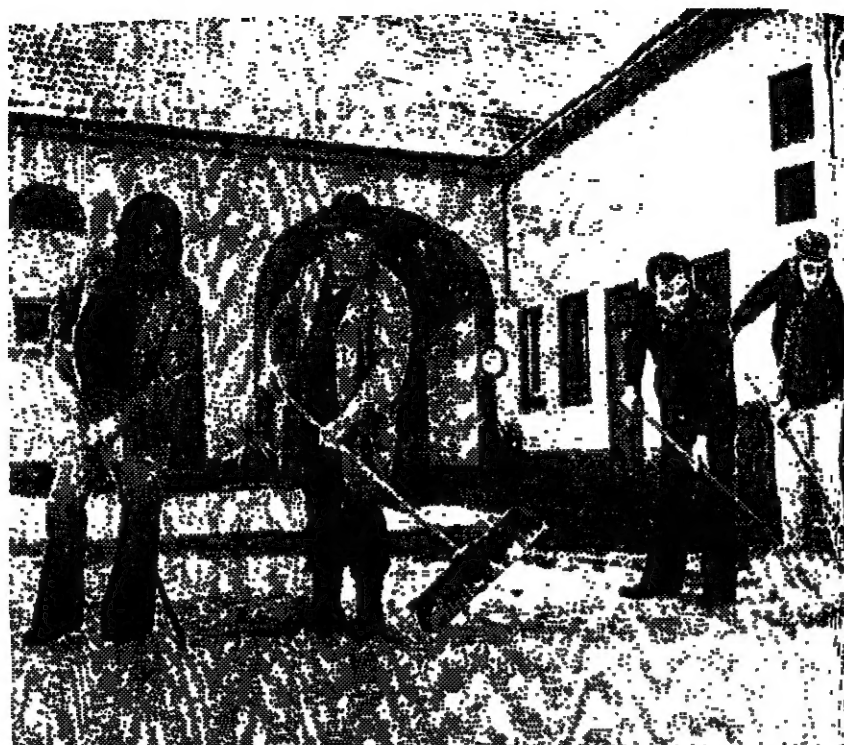
Under this would be established model institutions, among them: day clinics, workshops, communal housing, homes for the transition period from life in an institution to reintegration into society and, above all, various forms of outpatient treatment.

The objective was to do away with huge institutions and long-term commitment to them.

In the long run, such reforms would save enormous sums of money. They would also counter the "psychiatrisation" of our society. But many people fail to see this.

One of them is Baden-Württemberg's Finance Minister Robert Gleichauf, who called on his opposite numbers in the Länder to reject the federal funds, and, recently, the conference of Länder finance ministers accepted Gleichauf's proposal.

But the decision will only have political consequences once the Länder prime ministers adopt it.



Otto Breuer (second from left) sweeping snow in the yard of 'Roter Hamm' the day after his escape. (Photo: Horn)

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### New doubts on reform of care system

Even so, there are grounds for concern — the more so since the reasons given by the finance ministers were of a constitutional nature (which is not exactly plausible).

They argue that Bonn has no right to intervene financially.

Constitutionally, however, the federal government is entitled to finance model projects and has been doing so for months.

So what are the real reasons for rejecting the gift from Bonn? One reason is evidently the finance ministers' fear of follow-up costs. Another is probably the long tug-of-war between the Labour Ministry (which evidently backs the Länder) and the Health Ministry.

MP Walter Picard (CDU), one of the most committed protagonists of reforms, says: "I cannot help feeling that there is an unholy alliance between the Labour Ministry and the finance ministers of the Länder."

The third, and probably most important, reason seems to be a lack of understanding for the problems involved and a tug-of-war over which department is

to do what, with a resulting loss of interest in the project.

This suspicion seems to be substantiated by the recommendation that was with the rejection of federal funds. The Gleichauf said that the Länder would not have to relinquish the money from Bonn, since the funds could be used for additional hospital financing.

But this would be counter to the recommendations of the psychiatric commission and would cement the present psychiatric system.

It would also mean that many patients would still be kept in wards for long periods.

But an experiment carried out by Land hospital of Düren shows that need not be so and that psychiatry can be made not only more humane but more economical.

Düren stopped admitting new patients for lack of capacity. The people who had to be rejected were treated as outpatients instead.

Now it turns out that they are all to have been rejected. Some have come to their problems others feel they are benefiting greatly from outpatient treatment.

It is exactly this outpatient treatment that has been recommended. It can only be hoped that the Länder, if not for humanitarian reasons, will agree to it for those of economy — will agree to it for those of economy.

And after the fight, Köpzig stayed near the ring watching the rest of the team fight and shouting encouragement.

Continued on page 16

## SPORT

### New York club signs-up Cologne soccer chief

Cologne football club manager Hennes Weisweiler has signed a three-year contract worth over DM2 million to manage Cosmos New York of the North American League.

Weisweiler signed in the exclusive Lancaster Hotel in Paris.

Cosmos captain Franz Beckenbauer, former captain of the German national team, played a part in persuading Weisweiler to sign.

Weisweiler would have liked to stay longer with Cologne but incompatibility with the club chairman was making his position difficult.

"After everything that has happened in the past weeks, I had no choice," said 60-year-old Weisweiler. He was annoyed at the Cologne board's delaying tactics in renewing his contract.

His decision to manage a team in the North American league, which German football association boss Neuberger once referred to as a "pinpot league", came as a shock to the Cologne board of directors.

Kurt Werner, one of the directors, said: "We will now have to think the situation over." The board issued a statement saying that they regretted Herr Weisweiler's irreversible decision.

Insiders say that the poor relations between Weisweiler and club chairman Peter Weiland are the main reason for the change.

At one stage last season Weisweiler was on the point of packing his bags and joining Barcelona FC.

Weisweiler and Weiland had little to say to one another, and in a recent interview with the *Köln Stadt-Anzeiger*,

Weiland indicated that the club might have a new manager at the beginning of next season.

"The manager should also consider whether the situation here is optimal", he said. To which Weisweiler replied that he could work anywhere; it did not have to be in Cologne.

Weisweiler said after signing on for Cosmos: "I would have liked to stay in Cologne, but there is no relationship of trust and I no longer have a working relationship with the club chairman. I don't need to prove to Weiland that I am a good manager by winning a few games in the next weeks."

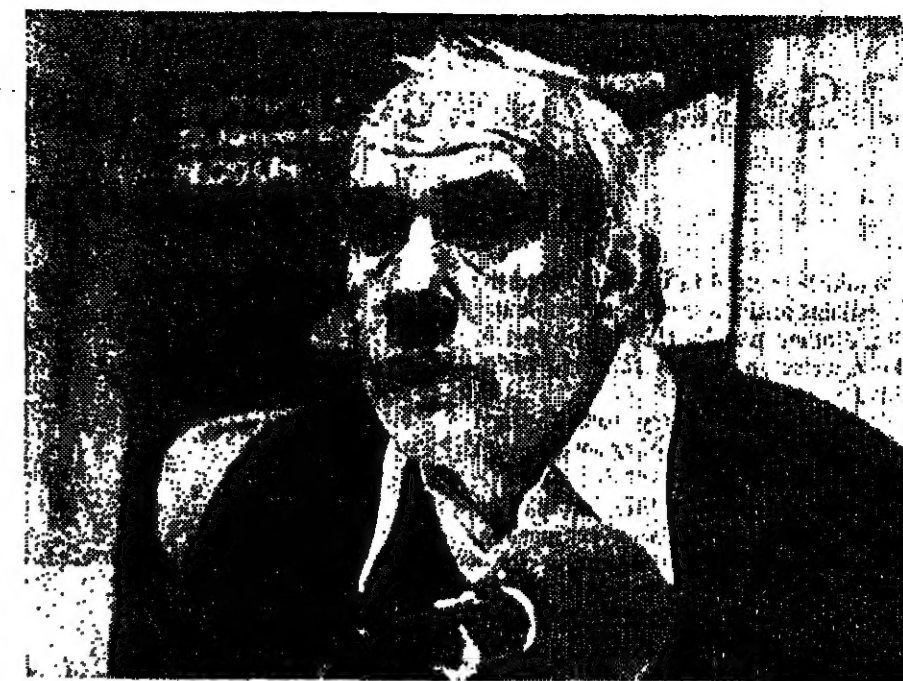
Under the circumstances, it looks unlikely that both sides will stick to the agreement that Weisweiler will complete his current contract with Cologne until 30 June. The American season begins at the beginning of March.

Weisweiler sees no problems: "Cosmos have agreed to me completing my contract here. I want Cologne to do as well as possible in the league and the cup."

It remains to be seen whether Weiland also takes this view. He was away on business and not available for comment.

Weisweiler is said to have had contacts with Cosmos for some months. Cosmos made him an offer before the season started, while he was on holiday in Bordeaux with assistant manager Hannes Löhr. He turned the offer down because he believed at the time that his future was with Cologne.

The Americans had already tried to persuade Udo Lattek of Dortmund, Ar-



Hennes Weisweiler: decision shocked the Cologne board.

(Photo: Wilfried Witters)

### Hamburg stay on top of the league

gentian world cup manager Luis Menotti and the Brazilian Coutinho to manage them.

When these efforts failed, they sent Beckenbauer off to persuade Weisweiler.

They talked before the new year and Beckenbauer came away with the impression that Weisweiler was interested.

Cosmos club chairman Nesuhi Ertegun arrived in Germany on 26 January and watched the game between Cologne and Dortmund, which Cologne won 4-1.

He offered Weisweiler a salary of DM700,000 per annum. Weisweiler asked for 48 hours to think it over, after which he said yes.

After training on the Monday, Weisweiler flew to Paris to sign.

He said he was looking forward to America; and Cologne have already started looking for a successor.

Horst Müller-Manz  
(Köln Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 January 1980)

Last season's Bundesliga football champions Hamburg SV, have beaten their nearest challengers to stay on top of this season's competition.

Their 3-1 victory over Bayern Munich was on a snow-covered Hamburg pitch.

Watching the game was Tomislav Ilic, manager of Hajduk Split, Hamburg SV's opponents in the quarter finals of the European Cup.

He said: "Hamburg are the favourites and so of course they must be favourites to beat us."

He was impressed by the German side's precise marking system, its skill on the ball and mastery of the difficult conditions.

Hamburg's dominance was largely due to manager Branko Zebec's instructions to mark Munich stars Breitner, Oblak and Rummenigge very tight, not allowing them space to play.

Hamburg were given another boost by the return of their international defender Manfred Kaltz, out of action since the beginning of January with pneumonia.

Kaltz, who has 32 international caps, did not go on so many of his famed bursts down the right flank but it was his inch-perfect centre which led to the first goal, headed by Jimmy Hartwig in the 61st minute.

#### Sealed in the last minute

Bayern defender Augenthaler put through his own goal to make it 2-0.

Janzon pulled back a goal for the visitors and then Hamburg striker Hrubesch scored in the last minute to make it 3-1.

The attendance was 61,000 and receipts DM850,000.

After the game, Bayern trainer Pal Csernai criticised the referee for booking Bayern midfielder Paul Breitner. Breitner had protested because he said the Hamburg players were not, the regulation 10 yards from the ball, and he waited for them to move back.

Csernai described the referee's decision to show Breitner the yellow card as "total nonsense."

Breitner now automatically misses his team's next game because he has collected four yellow cards this season.

(Nordwest-Zeitung, 4 February 1980)

### Young boxer emerges as an Olympic prospect

The tall, short-haired and slightly awkward-looking lad was not at all awed by being in the same team as old hands such as European champion Peter Hussing.

Köpzig was runner-up in the Junior European Championships in 1978. He has twice been German junior champion and last year won the senior title for the first time.

He trains every day; twice a week with national trainer Julian Neuding in Essen and the rest of the time with Fritz Wein, trainer at the Gelsenkirchen Erie Boxing Club.

Wein has another outstanding middleweight prospect on his books in the shape of Remy Christle.

Wein has been a sporting adviser and father-substitute to Köpzig for years. Köpzig has been boxing since he was 11, when he gave up football.

He is the fourth of six children. His father is dead.

Michael is in his third year as an apprentice fitter. He is self-confident, inside the ring and out and has lost only seven of his 108 fights to date.

Manfred Zieonka of Düren beat me four times. But I have beaten him in our last two fights and he won't beat me again", he says.



Michael Köpzig

(Photo: Werke)

A 19-year old apprentice fitter from Gelsenkirchen, Michael Köpzig, is the newest star in West German amateur boxing.

Köpzig showed his mettle when he stopped Paul Malone in three rounds in their middleweight bout when the German team thrashed Ireland 18-2 in Münster.

A crowd of 3,000 watched as Malone gave up after being knocked down three times.

And after the fight, Köpzig stayed near the ring watching the rest of the team fight and shouting encouragement.



## ■ FOCUS ON BONN

## Sailing or wood-chopping, politicians must keep fit somehow

Politicians need to be fit to stand the strains and stresses of government. Like other people, they play sport or take exercise in various forms to maintain their condition.

For many, when they have finished giving interviews or writing speeches on Sundays, it is time for exercise.

Sometimes it is sailing, or playing football, working in the gymnasium, swimming, or maybe just going for a walk.

Bonn politicians are surprisingly tight-lipped about how they keep fit.

And many keep away from the limelight, preferring instead to exercise in private, for example in private swimming pools or gardens rather than public pools or parks.

Many use the Bundestag Sports Club or other private clubs.

One civil servant says: "My minister would collapse during cabinet meetings if he did not use his free time for sport."

Konrad Adenauer used to go for long walks, climb stairs and play bowls.

He had a bowling green built in the Palais Schaumburg Park, but it has not been used by his successors.

Chancellor Schmidt is fit, according to the Chancellor's Office. Those close to him say that he does not take enough exercise. When he is in Bonn, he often walks the 300 metres from the Chancellor's



The Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, helped by his wife, Hannelore, takes a welcome break from the affairs of state. (Photo: Sven Simon)

lor's Office to his bungalow in the evening.

Schmidt does more for his physical wellbeing at his holiday home on the Brahmssee, his holiday home in Schleswig-Holstein.

Here he goes sailing and chops wood — as ex-Kaiser William II once did in exile.

The difference is that whereas the

Kaiser chopped wood for fun, Schmidt does it because he is building a wooden footbridge to his sailing boat.

The tiny swimming pool in the Chancellor's bungalow is no longer used. And no one uses the swimming pool in the Villa Hammerschmidt which then President, Gustav Heinemann had built.

President Carstens goes gymnastics with his wife, Veronica. His predecessor, Walter Scheel, played golf in Cologne.

The swimming pool in the Bavarian Land government's grounds where Franz Josef Strauss could take his exercise, is now empty.

Strauss's first sporting love is mountaineering.

Former Shadow Chancellor Rainer Barzel (CDU) swims in the American Embassy Club in the mornings.

Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum, the minister responsible for sport, is a keen walker and swimmer.

He uses his leisure time to get out into the fresh air. He is a great lover of snow, but does not ski.

His party colleague Ertl not only skis but is the President of the German Skiing Association.

Politicians do not have the time nor the need to show off which is often connected with exclusive sports such as horse riding and golf. They prefer popular sport, especially football.

Defence Minister Apel is a keen footballer and, appropriately, a defender. He plays right half in indoor football matches in Bonn every Thursday.

The Bundestag football team is almost world famous, though it has not played in any world cups.

Its captain is 58-year-old SPD MP Adolf Müller-Emmert. The team is the most active group in the Bundestag sports community, which has 1,000 members, including 150 MPs.

It plays every Wednesday and Friday under the supervision of a sports teacher.

Leader of this group is Franz Xaver Gelsenhofer, CDU MP and holder of the Golden Sports Award.

The sporting community knows no party distinctions. MPs from all parts of the political spectrum play beside one another.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 31 January 1980)

Continued from page 14  
cheque for DM900. He did so and he returned to the asylum.

A few days later, he turned himself to the police and was sentenced to months. Having served his sentence, he was discharged according to regulations and was a free man. That was in April 1977.

So this is the story of a man who according to social workers of the Frankfurt Association for Social Injustice which sponsors the rehabilitation where he now lives, has "suffered injustice."

Breuer's future is uncertain. One he will have to leave the centre for room for others. There is no room housing for people like him and he has no money.

Of the DM20 he earns for an 8-hour work day he cannot put a penny away. If he is lucky he will live on what the rest of his life.

The reason why Otto Breuer gets little money is simple: the Welfare Department, which partly supports the rehabilitation centre, collects 40 per cent of revenues from the centre's work to reduce its own costs.

There is no improvement in it says Paul Marx, the manager of Frankfurt Association for Social Injustice. The best that can be hoped for is reduction of the rate paid to the Welfare Department to 30 per cent.

Society does not feel that it is something to victims of the system Otto Breuer.

Claudia Dillmann  
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 January 1980)

## The diplomats who just don't see red

French diplomats in Bonn are not the worst traffic offenders among the diplomatic corps represented there. They are noted for their tendency to ignore red lights.

However, the police are powerless to do anything about it as the diplomats enjoy diplomatic immunity. All they can do is warn and complain.

Figures issued by the Bonn police show that Vatican diplomats and diplomats from Honduras were only guilty of one traffic offence each last year.

The Bonn Press Office revealed that the diplomatic corps committed 14 parking offences last year. The Mercedes were far and away the worst offenders here, with 569 parking tickets, followed by the Turks with 332 and the Austrians with 278.

Police caught 168 diplomats speeding and 247 going through red lights.

As the Bonn city authorities can penalise the drivers of diplomatic cars, they have no choice but to tell the Bonn Embassies, via the Bonn Ministry of Foreign Affairs, of the German traffic regulations every three months.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 4 February 1980)

## One in ten is a foreigner

Bonn is the most international city in West Germany, according to the city's press office. More than 26,000 foreigners from 131 countries live there. This means that more than 9 per cent of Bonn residents have a foreign passport.

There are 5,000 foreign diplomats living in the national capital.

(Die Welt, 1 February 1980)

## ■ HOME AFFAIRS

## Former Strauss rival keeps cool as election outlook changes

Bonn Opposition leader Helmut Kohl is outwardly composed about the way that some people are now flocking round the Shadow Chancellor, Franz Josef Strauss, in anticipation of an election win this year.

Kohl himself might have been in Strauss's position, but for two heavy political blows last summer.

Asked about his plans for the future, Kohl replies: "I have important functions which I enjoy carrying out. Why should I let anything disturb my peace of mind? I am not aiming for new positions. I don't want to be a minister."

Kohl is amused to observe the transformation that has taken place among some members of the CDU/CSU. Only nine months ago all the ambitious talents, crown princes and pretenders in the CDU had more-or-less given up hopes of winning the 1980 general elections and were pinning their hopes on the next election, in 1984.

Then came the transformation at the turn of the year. The reason, in the CDU/CSU's view, was the change of mood following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

But the behaviour of Strauss is also designed to woo even those in the CDU who bitterly resisted his becoming Shadow Chancellor until last summer.

At that time, Kohl suffered two heavy defeats. His party colleagues persuaded him to give up the Chancellorship candidature. Then his candidate, Ernst Albrecht, Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, was defeated by Strauss.

No one knows exactly whether Kohl has yet got over these blows. The CDU praise him for his cooperation, though a top CDU man is said to have said that Kohl will only really be happy when Strauss too has been defeated in a general election.

Helmut Schmidt's style of government is not that of the lonely decision maker. He likes decisions to be made in small groups.

He is sceptical both about the often long parliamentary procedures and those of his own party.

Schmidt expressed his worry about being able to go on governing in face of all the sessions and meetings when he told the parliamentary SPD: "85 per cent of one's time and energy is spent explaining and defending decisions one has taken in a thousand democratic bodies."

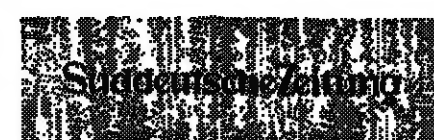
"One only has 5 per cent of the time to think and make decisions. The rest of the time is spent with paperwork. And these three components constitute what is called government."

He has since increased the amount of time he spends thinking and deciding and cut the time he spends in a thousand democratic bodies. Increasingly he seeks advice in small groups or small circles within the Cabinet, the worldwide giver of advice as a seeker of advice.

The official institutions of parliament and even of government he considers not only too big but too indiscreet.

In times of crisis Schmidt prefers the cabinet style of the individual talk or confidential fireside discussion in which he expects openness.

He has been cultivating this form of



But there is no proof whatever that this is in fact, Kohl's attitude. All those involved agree that he has been far more relaxed and composed since giving up trying to become "the Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany."

And as he has obviously abandoned all ambitions, even his critics now leave him in peace.

However Kohl, who will be 60 shortly, need not fear being pushed off the political stage. On the contrary, he is the one CDU politician whom Strauss cannot ignore if he should become Chancellor.

There is all kinds of speculation in the CDU/CSU about possible ministerial permutations, but the only realistic one is a Strauss-Kohl duo, with Strauss as Chancellor and Kohl Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor.

The argument among leading CDU men is that Kohl is the only man who can win the support of all wings of the CDU.

As his majority in the event of victory would probably be slim, Strauss would need all the CDU and CSU votes for the election of the Chancellor in Parliament.

In his speeches and essays Kohl has increasingly turned towards foreign policies. However, there is at least one party colleague of his who would very much like to be Foreign Minister.

It is at any rate definite that Walther Leisler Kiep, at present Minister of Finance in the Lower Saxony government, would like to return to Bonn.

## Schmidt's task: making the work fit the time

government by discussion particularly during the Afghanistan crisis. Here he is not only following Anglo-Saxon models. He has also learnt from Italian politicians.

One of the standard features of Italian crisis management is the celebrated consultations between the President and active or retired politicians. The people find out about these consultations and this slightly lessens their fears.

Schmidt's consultations are part of his crisis management. Following the Afghan crisis, he held talks with former Chancellors Brandt and Kiesinger and former Foreign Ministers Scheel and Schröder.

Foreign Minister Genscher, as Vice-Chancellor, was also present. Their talks lasted from seven in the evening till midnight.

Then Schmidt spent two hours the next day in talks with Strauss, Kohl and Zimmermann. The following day he spoke to leading SPD trade union leaders Vetter, Loderer, Kluncker, Haunschild and to leading SPD politicians Bahrt, Wehner and Wischniewski.

Kiep and Strauss met recently when Kiep gave a lecture to the CSU in Kreuth. Kiep came away talking of a completely new Franz Josef Strauss, who, he said, had listened, asked questions, asked for advice.

Others have said that at this meeting Strauss told Kiep that there would be a revolt in the CDU and CSU if, in the event of becoming Chancellor, he appointed Kiep Foreign Minister, as many still resented the fact that Kiep and three other CDU MPs had voted for the Moscow Treaty. Kiep denies that Strauss said this.

Strauss does not want Kiep as his Foreign Minister, and the CDU have let it be known that they would not accept Strauss's CSU colleague Zimmermann as Foreign Minister, so it looks as if Kohl could be offered the post without lifting a finger.

Strauss would have other problems appointing top people to other ministerial posts. Ideally, he would like to appoint Schleswig-Holstein Prime Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg as Finance Minister and Vice-Chancellor — at least according to one version which is obviously out to hurt Kohl.

Stoltenberg however has promised his voters that he intends to stay in Kiel. The other CDU guest in Kreuth, Kurt Biedenkopf, could reckon with a minister's job, probably that of Minister of Economic Affairs.

However, if the CDU wins the Land election in North Rhine-Westphalia, Biedenkopf would become Minister of Economic Affairs in Düsseldorf, and if it loses, he is tipped to become leader of the Land CDU.

Manfred Wörner is hoping for the Defence Minister's portfolio, but here the CSU may want their floor leader and

deputy party leader Zimmermann to get the job.

And Alfred Dregger, according to party colleagues, is more interested in becoming Defence Minister than Education Minister.

And so we have a curious situation in which the people Strauss would like to appoint have other commitments while there are a number of candidates in the CDU whom Strauss does not consider suitable.

This may be one reason why Strauss has abandoned his original plan to name a "Shadow Cabinet" in May. Instead, he will only name an election team in which all prominent CDU/CSU politicians will be represented. Klaus Dreher  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 February 1980)

## New trend in cross party appointments

It came as a surprise to many that former CDU Shadow Chancellor Rainer Barzel was appointed Coordinator of Franco-German Cooperation in succession to the late Carlo Schmidt.

Barzel has always been interested in foreign policy, European policy in particular. Furthermore, he is on excellent terms with French Foreign Minister Francois-Poncet.

But why did the SPD/FDP government appoint Barzel who is, after all, a member of the Opposition? Certainly many in the government parties would have been honoured to accept the appointment.

There is doubtless reason and method in offering the post to a member of the Opposition.

Helmut Schmidt has long been thinking about ways of returning to an above-party personnel policy in certain areas.



Rainer Barzel  
(Photo: Sven Simon)

This was most plain when he charged Lower Saxony Minister, Walther Leisler Kiep with the organisation of special aid for Turkey.

The longer he is in office, the more a head of government tends to look beyond party horizons.

Foreign Minister Genscher has long done this. Foreign policy is easier where there are as many areas as possible of agreement with the Opposition. There is no controversy whatever between Government and Opposition about special relations between Germany and France.

The appointment of Barzel demonstrates also the need of all parties to come together in times of crisis and jointly bear responsibility.

Peter Hoppen  
(Bremer Nachrichten, 2 February 1980)



## ■ THE PARTIES

## Confident Dregger re-elected in Hesse with a massive majority

Alfred Dregger has been re-elected as chairman of the Hesse CDU as was expected. He polled a massive 392 votes out of the 405 cast at the party congress in Giessen.

Of course he was always confident that the party would give him what it owes him — or what it believes it owes him.

"I'm the chairman and undisputed in this office, so there can be no two ways about it — I'll remain chairman," he said before the congress.

The congress was attended by Shadow Chancellor Franz Josef Strauss (CSU). Its slogan was the overgreen "We are Coming" (the same as in 1970) and the leading roles were also the same.

Dregger conceded that he had performed no miracles during his term of office, but said that there was no reason for resignation over the election this year if everybody took the line.

The general view was that there was no alternative to Dregger.

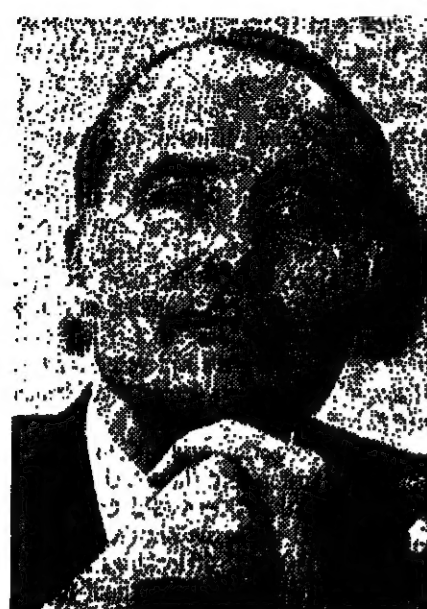
### Other names were mentioned

But it is doubtful whether he is as undisputed as it appeared on the surface. Doubts were expressed behind the scenes and other names were mentioned quietly.

Still, Herr Dregger enjoys much praise for his work. The question, however, is whether this is a firm enough foundation to build on. His re-election is no indication.

Dregger stands and falls with Franz Josef Strauss, whom he calls the most capable CDU/CSU politician and whose unwavering supporter he is.

Dregger has turned the necessity of trying to be (politically) the spitting



Alfred Dregger  
(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

image of Strauss — "There is a certain element of tragedy in this," says his personal assistant Günther Reichert — into a virtue.

If Dregger is to identify himself with Strauss he wants to do so without any ifs and buts.

Under the cloak of the election campaign and the avowals of loyalty that go with it, he keeps his master's back covered, and in this role he is unbeatable.

The question whether the mere fact that Strauss is the Shadow Chancellor gives him full authority to draft guidelines is undebatable for Dregger.

"The only thing that matters is what Strauss wants to do," and everything else takes second place.

It is in keeping with this attitude that Dregger shrugs off the concept whereby the North German CDU should have a somewhat more differentiated programme.

He has no understanding whatsoever for such ideas — he does not even consider it worth talking about.

Dregger stands behind Strauss to the point where even his own career becomes secondary. Though he probably cares about what might become of him if Strauss wins, he is not pressing him for anything.

Says Dregger: "I told Strauss that I'm 100 per cent behind him. I realise that he needs a certain scope of decision and I'm prepared to make my own interests secondary."

Alfred Dregger knows that he will be given one of the better portfolios. It is unimportant to him which.

He leaves this to Herr Strauss to decide, saying that he has enough young and talented people to draw on.

Regardless whether he is given the Foreign Office or Interior or Defence or Economic Affairs and/or Finance, he is ready to shoulder any one of them.

Logically, he tells himself that Strauss cannot commit himself at this point because this would paralyse the fighting spirit.

And Strauss expressed himself in roughly the same terms in Giessen, saying that he was not prepared to mention names at this stage. In fact, he was not even willing to commit himself and say that Dregger would be one of the inner circle.

Strauss: "Dregger is a multipurpose weapon that can be used on many fronts."

It is quite possible that the Shadow Chancellor's right hand will have to content himself with one of the less important portfolios — in fact, it is likely.

Insiders say that the Foreign Office has already been earmarked for Lelsler Kiep and Interior for Zimmermann.

Defence could well go to Manfred Wör-

ner and Finance/Economic Affairs to Biedenkopf.

And then there is still a joker in the pack which will have to be played: Helmut Kohl decides to seek a new post.

Dregger's reticence is thus justified unless he wants to run the risk of getting the portfolio he bids for.

Does this mean that he is not adequately rewarded for his unwavering commitment? He would certainly like to state a preference.

Herr Dregger knows that he has no modest if he is not to wind up as a hand.

The danger is considerable, the natives being winning with Strauss being made responsible for defeat.

If Franz Josef Strauss fails to win an absolute majority it could spell the political end for Dregger. If, on the other hand, Strauss makes it, Dregger will see his concept confirmed and will at least stand another chance in Hesse.

### Risk of losing out in a reorientation

Without being thus buttressed, he would probably fall prey to a general orientation and would have to yield a man like Walter Wallmann who has been gaining ground.

Though none of these undercurrents became visible in Giessen, ripples could be felt.

Officially, Alfred Dregger is ahead, but Frankfurt's Mayor Wallmann is already on his marks. Perhaps he will be in the running for the last and which is the most promising.

The scene is still dominated by fantasies and mellifluous phrases, but they are formulated so that they can be reversed.

Dregger says of Wallmann that "he is the nation's best CDU mayor" and Wallmann says of Dregger that "he shall gain the final objective with him" ... under whose leadership?

Hans-Joachim Nock

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 January 1980)

## Record poll for premier of North Rhine-Westphalia

man, Kurt Biedenkopf, the Chancellor said: "These famous CDU professors don't know what they're talking about. They're too intelligent to be wise."

He went on to say that he was proud that "we are subsidising coal year after year."

If this had not been done for years, we would now have to fear for our energy supply, he concluded.

Herr Schmidt praised the North Rhine-Westphalian government for its energy policy, particularly its willingness to establish an interim dump for nuclear waste. He also thanked the government for having kept open the option for a fast breeder in Kalkar.

Schmidt said that the CDU/CSU stood on thin ice with their contention that the Chancellor had no backing from his party.

He said: "Never before in Germany's post-war history has a party so openly and carefully discussed its policy and arrived at clear decisions."

As to the election prospects of the "Greens" (environmentalists), the chan-

cellor said that, like all other splinter groups, they would get considerably less than 3 per cent in the Bundestag election.

Herr Rau called on his fellow party members to remind the voters of all the improvements that have taken place in that state during the 13 years of the Social-Liberal coalition.

When the SPD/FDP took over from the CDU in 1966 the coal mines in that Land were dying and barbed wire fences still separated protestant and Catholic children in schoolyards.

What mattered for the 11 May election, he said, was to ensure that the Land does not revert to the conditions of those years.

But the election would also decide whether "the Bundesrat would have a two-thirds majority with which to block Helmut Schmidt's policy."

"We must prevent people who have no concept and contradict each other daily from governing this state."

He also said that if Biedenkopf wanted to do away with subsidies he would have to answer the question whether



Johannes Rau  
(Photo: Marianne von der Lancken)

saving towards a home should no longer be promoted, whether the DM100 spent to subsidise coal should be spent and whether low income housing construction should come to an end.

He asked: "What sort of rents does Biedenkopf consider tolerable for the skilled worker and the small office clerk?"

Stefan Klein

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 February 1980)

## ■ THE MEDIA

## The BBC, seen through a German lens

— because the BBC is part of Britain's substance, its greatness.

The BBC regards itself as one of the pillars of British society, like Parliament, the Crown, the Church of England, the legal system, the army, Oxford and Cambridge Universities and the Civil Service. And polls show that it is more influential than these institutions.

And so any analysis of the British system as a possible model for the reform of the West German broadcasting system must take into account the myth and the ethos of the BBC, which was founded in 1927. The BBC is the model, the standard — also for the independent broadcasting companies.

The BBC, with its two television channels (BBC 2 corresponds roughly to the German Third TV channel), its four national radio programmes, its 20 local radio stations and its (incomparable) overseas service, is a public corporation like German TV, financed solely by television and radio licence fees.

Independent television (which has one channel at the moment) is considered a typical commercial TV system, but it differs considerably from its American and Italian counterparts and is regarded by many supporters of private television in this country as a model worthy of imitation.

The 15 private companies in the ITV are not simply left to their own devices and the dictates of commerce but are

answerable to a controlling body, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) which has considerable influence on the programme content and the advertising of the 19 independent radio stations and 15 private TV companies.

There are strict limits to the shares newspaper publishers can hold in these companies.

Freedom of speech and expression is so taken for granted that it is not even mentioned in the contracts between the state and the TV and radio companies, both the BBC and the IBA.

The British also have their own way of setting up these organisations. No one in the BBC hierarchy is elected — neither the 12 governors appointed by the Queen and therefore by the government, nor the Director General, who is appointed by the governors. (The body of governors corresponds roughly to the West German Radio Council).

The governors do not represent parties or other interest groups. They are 12 independent citizens, chosen because of their independence.

Such a body may seem suspect to sceptical Germans, but in England this system is normal and highly regarded. Royal Commissions, whose job is to examine critically public institutions, are formed in the same way. And every 12 years, a Royal Commission looks into the running of the BBC and the ITV.

The structure of the Independent ITV is different, but no less hierarchical. The Independent Broadcasting Authority has 11 members, appointed by the Home Secretary.

The IBA itself has a purely supervisory function and does not produce programmes itself. Programmes are produced by the 15 regional commercial television companies — 13 for the provinces, and two for London, one for weekday and one for weekend programmes.

All 15 companies have to provide a and current affairs service.

The IBA has considerable power. It alone has the power to grant licences to TV companies and it controls advertising and programmes. The companies have to have their programmes approved by the IBA, which also has a coordinating function.

All 15 companies have to provide a programme for the entire country, but this allows considerable space for local programmes.

This system acts as a barrier against poor quality programmes (the law requires "programmes of high quality") and against uncontrolled advertising; for example a committee of 15 specialist doctors checks the accuracy of all advertising for drugs and medicines.

Only seven minutes of advertising per hour are allowed — and incidentally the advertisements are often very intelligent and amusing.

They are not shown on bloc as here, but during and between the programmes.

There are widespread fears in West Germany that private TV companies would produce programmes "designed primarily to act as vehicles for advertising" (Karl-Günter von Hase, director general of the ZDF, the Second German Television Channel).

This has so far not happened in the case of the British ITV, because the

state did not hesitate to impose strict controls to prevent it.

Sponsor advertising, the main evil of American television, is banned. The laws insist on high quality of programmes and there are supervisory bodies to ensure this.

All representatives of interest groups, including the political parties, are kept off the supervisory bodies. At the same time, TV journalists, as in the BBC, are forbidden to show political partiality. A British programme presenter who appeared on the platform at a party conference would get a letter of dismissal the next day.

The British system shows that the quality of the independent TV programme depends solely on political will.

In the British case, the state does not exercise direct influence, entrusting supervision to an independent body: no one in the IBA or the BBC is in a position to tell curious journalists what parties the governors of the BBC and the member of the corresponding IBA bodies belong to.

Nobody knows because nobody is interested — and also because the question is considered highly inappropriate.

Control of programmes and advertising is surprisingly tight and detailed. The main principle is that of high programme quality and that no programme should offend decency and good taste or encourage lawlessness and disorder.

But within these limitations there is considerable freedom: strong language is allowed if "it fits the context."

The same applies to the treatment of sex, which also requires "tact and discretion." Protection of children is also very important.

The programme guidelines fill 36 large pages and advertising guidelines 18.

Indirect influence by advertisers is

ruled out because the chairman, his deputy and the 11 other members of the IBA are not allowed to have any economic connections with the advertising business or advertising generally, nor any connection with the programme production of the 15 private TV companies or commercial radio and TV technology.

To translate this into German terms, this would mean that no member of a radio or television council would be allowed to make decisions on the purchase of technical equipment if he held shares in a company manufacturing this equipment.

There are 11 rules on advertising for alcohol: no actor may look younger than 25, no persons commanding the loyalty of youngsters — e.g. footballers or pop stars, are allowed to appear. The advertisement must not show rounds being bought, nor give the impression that drinking leads to success in life.

But all these rules and regulations would be no use if British TV, after a phase in which independent TV set its sights lower than the BBC, did not aim for very high quality.

There are several reasons for this, not least the very often elite educational background of the programme producers — it is not only Prime Ministers who go to Eton and Oxford.

"It is just as important to give great pleasure to the few as to give a little pleasure to the many."

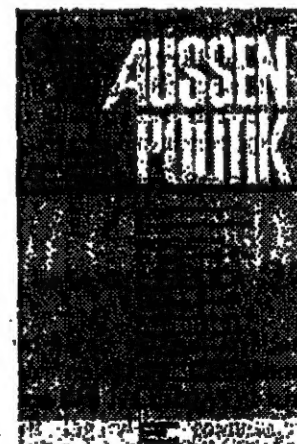
But even British television has its faults. It is insular and does not provide enough information about what is hap-

Continued on page 6

## Politics at first hand

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## ENERGY

## Boost for new heating systems and some bizarre frugalities

The Germans are a thorough lot — sometimes to the point of self-destruction. There was the man recently who died in his bathtub because he wanted to save precious energy. He hermetically sealed the door and window of his bathroom.

Sure enough, no heat escaped, but no air could enter either. It took his gas boiler only a few minutes to use up all the oxygen... he no longer has to worry about his heating bill.

The gourmet magazine *essen & trinken* in a recent issue seriously posed the question: "Can eating a stew replace heating?"

Dietician Professor Walter Feldheim of Kiel University came up with the following answer: "In a way, yes. The heat the human body creates after eating escapes to the environment via the skin. So if you invite a great number of people for dinner they should be able to heat the dining room."

Drivers and passengers of express buses notice these days that private cars keep tailgating buses at speeds over 110 kph, travelling in the lee of the bus to save fuel.

This nerve-wracking way of driving can easily reduce fuel consumption by two to three litres per 100 kilometers — but it can also cost the motorist his neck if the bus driver has to step on the brakes suddenly.

### Not quite the right image

All this could create the impression that a whole nation is hell-bent on saving energy, as if the latest oil shock had finally transformed people who now know but one aim: to cope with the challenge of Opec.

But this is not so. Granted, the doubling of the crude price last year, making the price of oil 10 times what it was in 1973, has certainly caused businessmen, consumers and the state to react. But the new trend towards thriftiness is still to come. For the time being, the public is only confused.

In fact, even our policy makers are still disagreed on the course to steer.

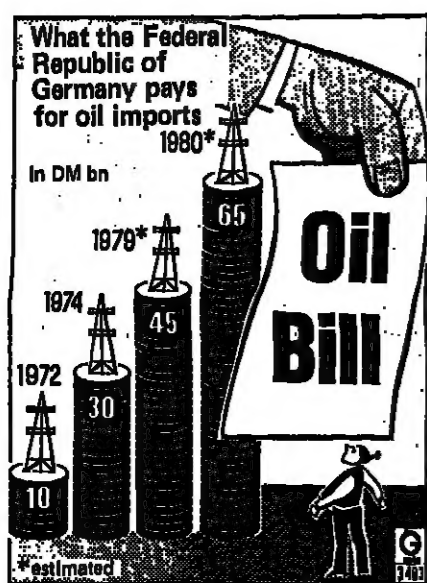
If Helmut Schlesinger, the new Bundesbank vice-president, is right, business will now have to gird its loins for a frosty period.

But Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer disagrees. Speaking in Düsseldorf, he put the unorthodox view that the steep rise in oil prices would not lead to stagnation and added unemployment but to growth and employment. He argued that rising oil and energy costs would lead to additional investment.

After all, he said, it is twice as profitable today than it was seven years ago to invest in insulation, remote heating, heat exchange pumps, fuel saving automobiles, public transport and the exploitation of natural energy sources.

Economising alone cannot induce more economic growth. On the contrary, thrift means reduced sales and, in extreme cases, bankruptcy.

All this can only be prevented by the prosperity created by changed attitudes, by making a virtue out of necessity and



turning the shortage into a booming business.

Small wonder, then, that the manufacturers of oil tanks have been complaining about empty order books since mid-1979. In the second half of that year, sales of fibreglass tanks dropped by 40 to 50 per cent and the trend continues. Says the Tank Manufacturers Association President Wilhelm Isenburg: "People don't want oil tanks anymore."

Business with large steel tanks for industry is also stagnating. The only reason that this line of business has not yet collapsed is that the industrial consumers are stockpiling oil. But there is an end of this in sight, and the decline of sales is already programmed.

Gas, which is much cheaper and usually follows oil price increases with a certain lag, has made tank manufacturers a recession-bound branch of business — but it has also made them inventive.

The Rau Company in Dettenhausen (Württemberg), one of this country's largest tank manufacturers, has developed a new heating system which operates without oil or gas and is to be presented this spring.

The invention, which is to hike the company's sales figures, is essentially an energy roof complete with heat storage and a heat exchange pump.

The new system is to be manufactured in the plants that have hitherto been producing oil tanks and in a new plant now being built.

Continued from page 5

pening in Europe. No British television viewer ever gets to see a programme describing what life is really like in West Germany or Switzerland. Coverage of Europe is only intensive in times of crisis, and then the viewers get too much of a good thing.

News programmes are technically good, relaxed, and no respecters of persons in the choice of what is newsworthy... no government minister automatically gets featured simply because he has spoken.

But the wide range of the BBC is a myth justified only by the excellent coverage of the famous World Service.

British television is less political than German TV in a double sense. The number of political programmes is far smaller than here and they have a completely different atmosphere.

Additional engineers have been hired for further development work.

The Elco Corporation, in Ravensburg, is also headed for further growth. The company, one of this country's major oil and gas burner producers, is experiencing an unprecedented boom. Orders for gas burners have risen by 300 per cent.

The service branch of the company has also shown a growth rate of 20 per cent since the latest drastic oil price increases.

One company representative says: "The customers now understand that a well-adjusted burner saves a lot of money."

Manufacturers of coal burning stoves are also in for a boom. They cannot keep up with orders.

Buderus, the leading company in this sector, anticipates sales this year to top 120,000 units, more than twice last year's figure.

Says a company spokesman: "Many customers buy a stove and keep it in the basement for a rainy day."

Buderus introduces its new line at the Cologne Domestic Appliances Fair, "Domotechnika", this month. One of the new models has been designed as a wood burning stove.

And since customers are prepared to pay for security, prices will be increased. The company justifies this with rising cast iron prices.

Business with tile stoves, and open fireplaces is also booming, with delivery times of up to two years.

Fireplaces, once the status symbol of rich homeowners, are now being bought as a precaution against an oil shortage that will paralyse the central heating system.

Some 150,000 fireplaces were installed last year alone and the demand for them is rising notwithstanding their price tag of between DM5,000 and DM12,000.

Another company now doing a flourishing business is the Walter Kröll Company, in Kirchberg (Württemberg) which specialises in energy systems operating on waste.

The company's stoves working on waste lubricating oil, of which only 60 were sold in 1963, have become best sellers. 10,000 were sold last year.

This is not surprising since these stoves can get their fuel at virtually zero cost from filling stations and garages.

## The BBC...

It is no accident that the turgid concept of "controversial discussion" does not really exist in English but as a result political programmes rarely get their teeth into the meaty subjects.

There has yet to be a ruthless critical analysis of the antiquated structure of the British trade unions.

The finances of the court and indeed the Royal Family as a whole are taboo. And the continuing saga of spy scandals simply cries out for a ruthless sorting out of the old boy network, the network of connections between old boys, police, public schools and Oxford and Cambridge, which seems to be able to survive every catastrophe.

This may not always be "socially levelling" — a much-sought term in the recent German debate — but it is revealing that this does not bother producers one bit.

The programme makers stick instead

Growth in the automobile industry on the other hand, has come to a halt. Sales, which last year amounted to well over DM100bn, will fall by 10 per cent this year. And what the future brings will depend entirely on the industry's ability to adapt.

As prices at the filling stations rose again only a few weeks ago, and as Opel had to introduce short work for their larger models due to sales, the Volkswagen subsidiary introduced Europe's heaviest front-end limousine, the Audi 200.

The Audi 200 and many other models made by the competition show that five-year development time for a model cannot be reduced by much, no matter how hard the manufacturers.

As a result, the cars today produce miracles of fuel economy were developed at least five years ago. All that is about them is the advertising slogan.

The latest price increases at filling stations have made the Germans — and other nations before them — do the economical five-gear drive. But few such cars are actually on the market. BMW has introduced the new five-gear driving while Mercedes and VW provide the new five-gear drives will soon force German industry to follow suit.

As a result, sub-contractors, marking the new gears are in for a rough time. The Getrag Company, which supplies BMW and Opel, can no longer cope with demand and is planning to extend its production capacity and additional staff.

Prospects generally are rosy. Until recently, only one in five buyers opted for the new drive. But Getrag's chairman, Trabert expects that one in two will opt for the new drive — and that will be before year's end — and that will be notwithstanding the heavy extra charge by the automobile industry.

The manufacturers of insulating materials are also benefiting from the shortage. Retailers have delivery times up to five weeks despite the fact the most manufacturers are working additional shifts.

Recozell, in Westphalia, would like to enlarge its production capacity, but it is unable to get the necessary machines due to the enormous demand.

So, every oil price increase kindles the boom still further in this line of industry. But at the same time, the greater the demand for these materials are oil tensions between TV and politics based.

The price of the raw material (polyethylene) has doubled in the past 12 months and now is DM240 a kilo.

But profits rise even more steeply, notwithstanding the high price of insulating material. Insulation is still worthwhile.

The sleep-price increases for crude oil have hit the chemicals industry in another sector as well: its much used raw material naphtha rose from DM275 in 1978 to DM640 today.

There, the added cost cannot be easily passed on to the consumer as with insulating materials.

It is therefore not surprising that Düsseldorf's biggest boat show in Düsseldorf demonstrated a new trend: wooden boats

Continued on page 7

to a less risky approach: political programmes stick to the facts, and present them with scrupulous impartiality when they are controversial. As a result, not as great in the United Kingdom as here.

One German television correspondent said that West Germany was far superior to the United Kingdom in the presentation of the hard reality of life here.

But British television is more humane. It takes people's hobbies and sports interests into account, devoting hours at a time to coverage of cricket, snooker.

This may not always be "socially levelling" — a much-sought term in the recent German debate — but it is revealing that this does not bother producers one bit.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 February 1980)

## BUSINESS

## Burnt fingers, big profits, in paper deals with 'ghost commodity'

The gold fever of the past few weeks has now given way to chaos and confusion.

Price fluctuations within hours from US\$550 to US\$580 an ounce make gold a dangerous business.

It was primarily the two major producers, South Africa and the USSR, who saw to it that gold was in short supply.

When it seemed as if gold would go through the roof, small investors queued up to buy in the hope of making a killing.

They stormed the gold desks of the banks until the last of the Kruggerands, the most popular gold coin, was sold.

Now, they find it difficult to get rid of their presumed hedge against inflation. Bankers make a point of exhausting the coins before parting with them — at the price of the moment.

A downward trend towards the US\$500 mark, and thus a reversal of the only in their top models equipped with the heaviest engines.

The booming sales of Japanese commodity Exchange in New York, the French and Italian standard car motor of the world-wide buying spree, has meanwhile pulled the emergency brake by drastically raising the margin for futures deals.

Most of these futures deals are a pure gamble: a buyer who today enters a contract to take delivery of a commodity at a future date does not actually want the goods.

All he wants is to profit from rising prices until due date by selling his moth sales. The Getrag Company, which supplies BMW and Opel, can no longer cope with demand and is planning to extend its production capacity and additional staff.

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Continued from page 6

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within a mere week. The actual and variable beneficiaries of futures deals are the brokers.

Ninety per cent of the small investors, on the other hand, 'to cash in' by operating on margin, i.e. a down payment of 10 per cent. This means that a 10 per cent price increase will make them a 100 per cent profit.

But, by the same token, if the price drops by only 10 per cent they will have lost every penny of the money invested.

Those who speculated on falling prices since the beginning of this year panicked because, for every dollar the gold price rose, they lost US\$100 per contract.

The more those speculating on falling prices had to buy to fill their contractual obligations, the more they drove the prices upward.

Those who had speculated on rising prices got richer by the hour. In other words, what the speculators who were hoping for falling prices lost was gained by those speculating on rising quotations.

And their greed was only heightened as prices soared and some US\$20bn to US\$30bn changed hands within a very short time — though only on paper.

Speculation on the silver futures market was even more hectic. There, the oil billionaire Nelson Bunker Hunt, together with an oil sheikh, bought a large portion of the futures contracts and now wants to demand delivery of the goods in the full knowledge that the volume of the contracts by far exceeds actual silver stocks.

The Commodity Exchange (Comex) has therefore put a stop to all new futures deals and imposed other restrictions.

And since the brokers have drastically increased the margin, futures deals are losing in impetus. The question now is: when will actual economic factors gain the upper hand again?

As things stand, no-one knows the true value of gold and silver. These precious metals pay no dividends, and there are no reliable yardsticks as with other forms of investment.

Prices are governed by the myth of eternal value and by fear of a world crisis in which only gold and silver would retain their market value.

It seems that it will be the small investors and speculators rather than in-

dustrial who will dominate future price developments, leaving a great deal of scope for price manipulations to the gold producers South Africa and Soviet Union.

In the past few years, the gold lobby has been successful in profiting from increasing inflation rates and thwarting the central banks who wanted to demonetise gold.

But re-assessment of currency reserves on the basis of the latest gold price developments is illusory since this would depend on finding an actual buyer at current prices.

Lack of demand could spell trouble for the precious metals market should there be economic setbacks.

Not only would potential buyers be reluctant, but more and more people holding gold would try to turn it into cash. It remains to be seen whether the oil sheikhs, cited time and again as potential buyers by the gold lobby, will really convert their petrodollars into metals yielding no dividends.

As with any other commodity, the value of gold depends on what people are prepared to pay for it. And, even in times of crisis, this could be considerably less than today.

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## Opposition keeps at bay consumer demand for longer shopping hours

Every time a public holiday falls on a Thursday, the shopping centres of big cities are jammed with people on the Friday.

The reason is simple: To get a long weekend, they take the Friday off and use it to shop.

This seems an unreasonable attitude because regular working hours have become shorter and shorter over the years, permitting everybody to do his shopping during the week until the mandatory closing time for retailers.

But this does not seem enough for

are, in again and are proving a formidable competition for the fibreglass variety. But then they have always been more attractive.

The old materials are in again in other areas as well. Last year, Germany's last coal-operated ship, a buoy tender, went to the wrecker's yard. Now, payal architects are again considering coal-fired boilers for modern freighters. An Australian shipping company has already ordered two of them.

While the high price of oil has created new growth opportunities for alternative technologies, Bonn politicians go on guzzling the stuff with the new car models, just allocated to cabinet members and their state secretaries.

Their official cars now have 191 hp instead of 170 hp engines.

Appeals for oil thriftiness, like the recent brochure issued by the Economic Affairs Ministry which says "economising begins when you buy the car", evidently apply only to the man-in-the-street.

Heinz Rühmann (Die Zeit, 1 February 1980)

And why not give all those women a



many consumers. The rigid official business hours may seem enough for day-to-day requirements, but they are not enough for more important purchases by the family as a whole.

Perhaps these buyers are also looking for a common purchasing experience which the retailers are trying to promote. But this requires a lot of time for comparative shopping.

Many a vacationer abroad, for instance, is only a compulsive buyer because he has more time than at home to stroll around the shopping areas and pick and choose.

Consumer and housewives' associations, supported by politicians (mostly those of the FDP) have repeatedly tried to bring about a relaxation of Germany's strict regulations governing retail business hours.

So far, they have always foundered on retailers' associations and the trade unions, who favour the present arrangements.

One of the retailers' arguments is that they want to protect their staff from arduous working hours.

But why should the employees of the retail trade be protected from something that is taken for granted in industry, the railroad system, the postal authority and many other branches of business?

There, many employees work unusual hours because they are compensated by additional time off or bonuses.

And why not give all those women a

chance who are desperately looking for part-time work?

Another argument of the defenders of the present system is that longer opening hours would lead to higher prices. But how are they to know that the consumer is not willing to pay for his being able to shop at leisure after working hours?

Then there is the paradoxical situation that many retailers do not even make use of the opening hours permitted by law. This is particularly so in the suburbs where shops close for a lunch break and call it a day at 6 p.m. (though allowed to stay open until 6.30).

On Saturdays they close at 1 p.m. (instead of 2) and this applies even to the once-a-month long Saturday when they may stay open until 6 p.m.

On top of this, many retailers close completely for several weeks a year for holidays.

There is no such thing as the retailer. Their interests vary depending on the place and type of business. So why not risk a major test instead of arguing back and forth?

Why not give one city area special permission to extend its business hours. A city of 100,000 should permit all businesses to stay open until 10 p.m. on two days a week — and that for two years. The response — either way — could put an end to the disputes. This is the more important since we are already faced with another dispute of a similar nature. The catering industry union has demanded that pubs and restaurants close at 11 p.m. — for the sake of the staff, what else?

Alfred Tholen  
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 3 February 1980)

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Another argument of the defenders of the present system is that longer opening hours would lead to higher prices. But how are they to know that the consumer is not willing to pay for his being able to shop at leisure after working hours?

Then there is the paradoxical situation that many retailers do not even make use of the opening hours permitted by law. This is particularly so in the suburbs where shops close for a lunch break and call it a day at 6 p.m. (though allowed to stay open until 6.30).

On Saturdays they close at 1 p.m. (instead of 2) and this applies even to the once-a-month long Saturday when they may stay open until 6 p.m.

On top of this, many retailers close completely for several weeks a year for holidays.

There is no such thing as the retailer. Their interests vary depending on the place and type of business. So why not risk a major test instead of arguing back and forth?

Why not give one city area special permission to extend its business hours. A city of 100,000 should permit all businesses to stay open until 10 p.m. on two days a week — and that for two years. The response — either way — could put an end to the disputes. This is the more important since we are already faced with another dispute of a similar nature. The catering industry union has demanded that pubs and restaurants close at 11 p.m. — for the sake of the staff, what else?

Alfred Tholen  
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